

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) An elongated shut apparatus comprising:

- a) a primary plate having a crescent shaped cross section with interior and exterior surfaces; and
- b) a follower plate having a crescent shaped cross section with interior and exterior surfaces, wherein the interior surface of the primary plate faces the interior surface of the follower ~~plate~~ plate.

wherein each crescent shaped cross section of the primary plate and the follower plate has concave and convex edges terminating in points at opposing ends thereof.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The according to claim 10, further comprising a handle plate connected to a lateral edge of one of the primary plate and the follower plate.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The according to claim 10, further comprising a plate connected to a center of the exterior surface of one of the primary plate and the follower plate.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The according to claim 10, wherein the primary plate has a first engaging element extending along a center of the interior surface thereof and the follower plate has a second engaging element extending along a center of the interior surface thereof, the first engaging element engaging the second engaging element.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The according to claim 13, wherein the first engaging element is a tenon and the second engaging element is a groove.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The according to claim 13, wherein the first engaging element is a groove and the second engaging element is a tenon.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The according to claim 10, wherein the primary plate has a first wing extending along a center of the interior surface thereof and the follower plate has a second wing extending along a center of the interior surface thereof, the first wing contacting the second wing.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The according to claim 16, wherein the first wing has a first engaging element and the second wing has a second engaging element, the first and the second engaging elements are selected from a tenon and a groove.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The according to claim 10, wherein the primary plate has a first recess chamber with a first fastener extending along a center of the interior surface thereof and the follower plate has a second recess chamber with a second fastener extending along a center of the interior surface thereof, the first fastener and the second fastener meshing together.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The according to claim 10, further comprising a slider movable along the primary plate and the follower plate, and having a central push arm.